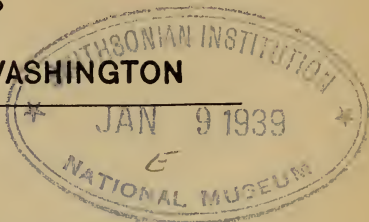


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW FRESHWATER SNAKE (*CHERSYDRUS GRANULATUS LUZONENSIS*) FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

BY ARTHUR LOVERIDGE.

Some years ago Dr. Thomas Barbour acquired and presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, the fine representation of the Philippine herpetofauna known as the Taylor Third Collection. Among the snakes was one which Dr. Taylor thought might be an undescribed form. Its unusual habitat, taken in conjunction with its strikingly different color pattern, makes it seem worthy of subspecific recognition as:

Chersydrus granulatus luzonensis, subsp. nov.

Type.—Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, No. 25,608. A semiadult ♂ taken in freshwater near Laguna de Bay, Los Banos, Laguna Province, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Collected by Dr. Edward H. Taylor, 1923.

Diagnosis.—A freshwater color form of the semimarine *granulatus*, with which it agrees in essential scale characters but is distinguished by its particolor pattern.

- Above, body and snout dark olive or blackish with numerous light annuli usually interrupted on the vertebral line; sometimes scarcely distinguishable in old individuals.....*g. granulatus*
- Above, body blackish on dorsum; uniform white on snout, sides and belly.....*g. luzonensis*

Description.—Midbody scales in 95 rows, *i. e.*, within the range of the typical form which occurs in adjacent Manila Bay, Luzon Island; upper labials 12.

Coloration (in alcohol).—Above purplish black except end of snout which, together with sides, belly, and undersurface of tail, is uniformly white.

Measurements.—♂, Length from snout to anus 550 mm., tail 70 mm.

Remarks.—In view of the presence in a lake on Luzon of *Hydrophis semperi* Garman, the sole member of its family known to occur in freshwater, it does not appear unreasonable to recognize subspecifically so distinctly colored an example of the semimarine *Chersydrus granulatus*, even though the latter is said to ascend tidal rivers to a distance of several miles. The Museum of Comparative Zoölogy possesses a good series of *granulatus* from Manila Bay and other localities. All of these differ from the new race in the manner indicated in the key given above.

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